

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1625 without my signature.

I absolutely believe that the Legislature, indeed all elected officials, must base their decisions on information that is true, accurate, and complete. This bill, requiring legislative reports be submitted under penalty of perjury, only applies to individuals appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and to the executive officer of the Franchise Tax Board and the executive director of the Board of Equalization.

The law already protects against falsified reports to the Legislature. Department heads must take oaths of office, and various Government and Penal Code provisions set forth duties, obligations, and penalties for the accurate and truthful execution of the operation of state government. Further, the Legislature may already require individuals appearing before it to testify under oath, and false testimony is a felony.

I will consider similar legislation that applies to all written materials used in the course of legislative deliberations that applies to any official of the State, elected or appointed by the Governor, the Legislature or any other constitutional officer.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger